

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

SATURDAY, JULY 9, 1887.

The Next School Meeting.

Editor Citizen:

There is much in the editorial of your last issue to command the assent of all readers. There are also some opinions expressed which will not be so generally accepted. One paragraph, however, is so true that it will bear repeating. You say:

Even parents so seldom visit the schools except at the closing exercises, as to leave the impression in teachers' minds, that they are instructing orphan children. Meetings for the voting of money, and the reading of reports are but slightly attended. Discussion is out of the question, for there are no ideas to receive or combat, and the trustees are left to grope in the dark in satisfying the needs of the community.

There are many reasons why parents should visit the schools. They would, thus, encourage the teachers, and could form intelligent opinions about their work. As it is, the prevailing ideas about the schools are derived from what the children report. And while children may intend to give a correct account, in most cases neither their judgment nor their knowledge enables them to do so.

The Trustees have a right to complain of the small attendance at the meetings for voting of money and reading of reports. These meetings are the only occasions when the people and the trustees come together; and they occur but twice a year. If any of the citizens are not satisfied with the management of the schools, then is the time for them to express it. If they do not attend these meetings they have no right to complain of anything in the school management.

The Trustees will hardly thank you for saying that they are "left to grope in the dark in satisfying the needs of the community." They have been elected to their office because they are supposed to understand those needs. To them have been committed the children to educate; they have, or should have, definite ideas of the work to be done—the chief ends in view, and all the steps necessary to those ends.

Still it is only right that the people should attend the school meetings in large numbers, and express their views of the way in which the schools are managed. Perhaps the Trustees are ahead of the people in their ideas of what should be taught, and the methods of teaching it. Perhaps the people are ahead of the Trustees. A full and free discussion will do good to both parties.

Let there, then, be a large turn-out at the next school meeting, and a full and free discussion of the school matters.

C. M. D.

"A Little Brief Authority."
Editor Citizen:

Don't you think it is time Bloomfield had a change of management in regard to the issue and enforcement of ordinances regulating the use of sidewalks? There is hardly an evening and never a Sunday that citizens are not annoyed and ladies insulted by some disorderly loafers or half-drunken rowdies obstructing the corners and sidewalks, yet they are seldom arrested or even molested in their "rights." While such annoyances and outrages are constantly being complained of, another matter, not complained of by anybody, has come to be (in the eyes of one man) an offence beside burglary is nothing. Therefore, it appears, imagining the Bloomfield Cyclers to be a kind of Jesse James Club, instead of the respectable, law-abiding and courteous young gentlemen that they are, some one must make of them an example of lawlessness. On the 4th of July one of these young men was grabbed up by a constable for an alleged infraction of the ordinance that classifies bicycling with Sunday horse-racing. The so-called sidewalk ridden upon was the cinder crossing between the railroad station and the truck house, where any bicyclist, as well as driver of a carriage, has a perfect right to be. Yet he was arrested by a brace of officers, taken before a "justice" who, against all law and decency, imposed a fine. The whole transaction was an outrage, inspired, it is generally well known, by the mistaken zeal of a single member of the Town Council, besides whom there is not one, probably, who does not say of the Cyclers that their standing in society and their own good sense is all the ordinance that is required to restrain them from infringing the rights, or in the least, the comfort of others upon our walks and streets. If those who constitute our "department of justice" do not give a better account of themselves in the future as servants of the public, we had better dispense with their services and relegate them to private life.

SENEX.

One out of a Thousand.

To the Citizen.

On Monday a little girl of 6 years, residing on Bay avenue, was saved from a serious and possibly fatal burning accident by her own remarkable presence of mind. She was "celebrating the Fourth" upon the piazza, having in her lap a bundle of fire-crackers that she was setting off. While so engaged she discovered that in some way her dress had taken fire. Instead of getting frightened and screaming or running about, she called to her little brother to get a pair of scissors, intending to cut out the burning part. Then she thought of a better plan, and coolly unbundled the burning garment at the back and quickly got outside of it. Making a compact bundle of the smoking dress she ran upstairs, threw it into the bath tub, and turned on the water. Considering the day and the circumstance, the exclamation may well be: "E Pluribus Unum!" Dor.

Our Progressive Neighbors on the South.

On Friday evening the first inst. the members of the recently organized Franklin District Improvement Association met in the new building near the corner of Dodd and Prospect street. The officers of the society are as follows: President Mr. James Gilmore; vice-president, Mr. John Mollier; secretary, Mr. Lamont Stillwell; treasurer, Mr. Alonzo G. Hyde. The objects of the society are "to encourage and stimulate local and general improvement." The following matters of general interest were discussed and acted upon at the meeting:

The Committee on Drainage and Sewerage reported that the Town Committee had promised to speedily remove the building known as the Italian Shanty. This obnoxious building is at present situated on Norman street and is occupied by the gang of Italians employed in constructing the sewers. The removal of this building has long been desired.

The association desire also to call the attention of the general public to the results to be obtained by organization effort. A suggestion that measures be taken to secure telegraphic communication to and from this vicinity was the subject of much discussion. On motion the Railroad and Telegraph Committee were instructed to ascertain what arrangements could be made with the telegraph company. The removal of the coop once used by the flagman at the Prospect street crossing of the M. & G. L. R. R. also the improving and beautifying the ground surrounding the Prospect street Depot were matters referred to the proper committee.

The construction of suitable cross-walks, the proper repair of the roads dug up in constructing the sewers, were matters referred to the Street and Sidewalk Committee. Considerable discussion ensued with regard to the pollution of the water in the brook running in the neighborhood. Acting on the suggestions of Councilman David Wilson the master was referred to the proper committee with instructions to investigate and report the matter to the Board of Health at its next meeting.

A deep interest was manifested in the discussion of a question concerning the administration of the Franklin District Public School. The matter was referred to a committee for a thorough investigation.

It was decided to rent the Schoolhouse wherein to hold future meetings of the Association.

Burial of a G. A. R. Comrade. One of the largest funerals ever witnessed in this vicinity was that of the late Samuel Wilder, who was buried on Sunday, the 3d inst. A large number of friends of the family, also delegations from the different organizations of which the deceased was a member, gathered to pay their last tribute of respect.

The burial service of the Episcopal Church was conducted by Rev. Mr. Facon. The ritual of the Grand Army of the Republic was performed at the grave by W. S. Pierson Post of Bloomfield. Comrades J. Thompson, Thos. Flannery, T. L. Dancer, H. L. Van Giesen, H. Taylor and S. Hampon acted as pall bearers. The remains were enclosed in a casket covered with black cloth and mounted with silver trimmings. Several beautiful floral tributes rested on the casket. The funeral procession was composed of members of Pierson Post, preceded by the Post drum corps; delegations from the B. H. F. A. and Active hose company, preceded by the Watsessing Band; the hearse, accompanied by a guard of honor, and carriages containing the family's relatives and friends.

The family desire to express through THE CITIZEN their thanks to the members of the different organizations for the kindness and sympathy shown by them.

Enterprising Ragpickers. One day last week while the family of Mr. James Albion were absent from their home on Marcy avenue, ragpickers broke through the wire screen that guards the cellar window. They carried off the rag-bag, some pieces of ingrain carpet and a pair of rubbers. Proceeding to the residence of Mr. Thomas Smith, they entered the cellar, dumped the rag-bag on the floor and picked out those of the best quality, together with a piece of carpet. At a house on Prospect street they carried off some clothes that had been put out to bleach.

The new Silby carriage being bought for Hose Co. 1, of Montclair, is intended to outshine and hose carriage in Essex County, excepting that of Ashland Hose Co. of East Orange.

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One day last week while the family of Mr. James Albion were absent from their home on Marcy avenue, ragpickers broke through the wire screen that guards the cellar window. They carried off the rag-bag, some pieces of ingrain carpet and a pair of rubbers. Proceeding to the residence of Mr. Thomas Smith, they entered the cellar, dumped the rag-bag on the floor and picked out those of the best quality, together with a piece of carpet. At a house on Prospect street they carried off some clothes that had been put out to bleach.

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